



ALL SAINTS
Multi Academy Trust

Proposal: Closure of St Michael's Church of England Academy's Sixth Form Provision

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Consultation Opens	Tuesday 16 th December 2025
Consultation Closes	Monday 2 nd February 2026 @ 12:00PM
Review by the Trust Board	Extraordinary Meeting: (TBC)

It is proposed that the Sixth Form provision at St. Michael's Church of England High School, will no longer accept students from September 2026. Students currently enrolled in Year 13 will continue to receive the same high standards of teaching and care that have always characterised our Sixth Form.

What are the reasons for this proposal?

The reasons for this proposal are:

- Despite consistently strong student numbers in Key Stages 3 and 4, the Sixth Form numbers have declined significantly. The low numbers of students on roll in Years 12 and Year 13 makes the Sixth Form unsustainable.
- Continuation of the Sixth Form would have a long-term negative school impact as the Government funding provided for Sixth Form students would not be sufficient to fund the resources required to teach the Sixth Form courses. Therefore, resources required for teaching would have to be subsidised by the funding received to deliver education to Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, reducing the capacity for continuous improvement and success.
- It is calculated that the extent to which the Sixth Form at St Michael's Church of England Academy is subsidised by the funding received for Years 7 to 11 is in excess of £300,000 Year 2025/26 and would be subsidised to this level again without action.
- Due to the large subsidy the Sixth Form is placing on the school budget, it is financially unsustainable to continue running the provision.

The School Context

The Published Admission Number for the St Michael's Sixth form is 84 students, however, the number admitted over recent years has been significantly lower than this number. The Department for Education recommends a minimum intake of 100 students each year, for a sixth form provision to be sustainable. The table below details the admission numbers, compared to the Department for Education's recommendations, over the last six years.

Academic year	Number of Year 11 students admitted into Y12	% of recommended intake
2025/26	0	0%
2024/25	31	31%
2023/24	21	21%

Students living in Sefton and the surrounding Liverpool and Lancashire areas are fortunate to have access to several post-16 provisions in the local area. Post-16 offers include a variety of academic and vocational options at school sixth forms and colleges, including specific programs for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). These options range from A-levels and T-levels to skills-based courses and apprenticeships.

There are several specialist's post-16 providers within easy reach of St. Michael's Church of England Academy (within 5 miles), as detailed below. The majority of students enroll at either Hugh Baird College or City of Liverpool College, both of which offer a combination of academic and vocational pathways. In addition to the specialist post-16 providers there are several secondary schools within 5 miles of St. Michaels Church of England Academy, who currently offer sixth form provision. Driving distances from St Michael's C of E Academy are detailed in the table below:

College	Ofsted grading
Sefton Sixth Form College 3.7 miles away	Outstanding
Hugh Baird College 4.7 miles	Outstanding
City of Liverpool College 6.6 miles away	Good
University of Liverpool Maths School 8.2 miles away	Outstanding
Liverpool Business College 7.0 miles away	Not yet graded
Marine Football Academy 5.7 miles away	Not yet graded

Collinge and Co Training Ltd 8.4 miles away	Outstanding
Liverpool Media Academy 7.3 miles away	Not yet graded

School	Ofsted grading
Chesterfield High School Sixth Form 1.6 miles away	Good
Holy Family Sixth Form 1.7 miles away	Good
Formby High Sixth Form 6.3 miles away	Outstanding
Range High School and Sixth Form 6.6 miles away	Good

In addition, there are many training providers that can provide work-based training/apprenticeships.

Financial support, such as the 16-19 Bursary Fund and transport contribution, may also be available to help with costs, depending on individual circumstances.

Financial Model – St Michael’s Church of England Academy Sixth Form

Using the ASCL methodology (Association of School and College Leaders), the analysis below suggests the Sixth Form will be subsidised using Key Stage 3 and 4 funding by **£304,725 in Year 2026/27**, based on the current number of students in the Sixth Form.

This is based on the current curriculum which has average class sizes of 7. If no action is taken, and a similar number of students is recruited for September 2026, this subsidy will at least double the following year, perpetuating year-on-year.

If the decision is taken to close the sixth form, admitting no more students from September 2026, the subsidy would be removed entirely by 2026/27.

St Michael's Sixth Form – Subsidy Calculation

	2025-26	2026-27
Total Income (excl Capital)	£4,984,806	£4,199,707
Sixth-Form Income	£206,267	£0
Main school funding	£4,778,539	£4,199,707
Contact Periods	690	617
Contact Periods (11-16)	617	617
Contact Periods (Post-16)	73	0
% Budget 11-16 income	95.86%	100%
% Budget post 16 income	4.14%	0%
% Contact time (11-16)	89.5%	100%
% Contact time (post 16)	10.5%	0%
Comparative % - Post 16 - Income	4.14%	0%
Comparative % - Post-16 - Contact	10.5%	0%
Variance	-6.38%	0%
Student Numbers Funded (1 Year Lagged)		
Year 12	0	0
Year 13	31	0
Total	31	0
Financial Subsidy - Post16 (Actual)	£304,725	£0

Have Your Say

We would like to hear what you think about the proposed closure of our Sixth Form. If you have any comments, queries or concerns about the proposals, please complete the form using the link below:

[Consultation Feedback Form](#)

Feedback provided through this consultation will be treated confidentially and will be considered by the Trust Board in deciding the final arrangements.

Next steps

This consultation will run for a period of four weeks (not including school holidays). Following the consultation, a report summarising the details of the responses to the consultation will be produced for Directors, who will then meet to review the consultation feedback and will make their decision. The consultation report and subsequent decision will then be published on the school's and Trust website and circulated appropriately.

If the decision of the Board of Directors is to proceed with the closure of the Sixth Form, a business case including all the feedback from the consultation and the Trust Board decision will be sent to the Department for Education for approval.

We expect the outcome to be available at the end of February 2026.

FAQs

Q: What impact will this have on students currently enrolled in the Sixth Form?

A: The closure will have no impact on the students currently enrolled in the Sixth Form. The school will continue to deliver a high quality of education for our existing Sixth Form students.

Q: If this proposal goes ahead, does it mean that the sixth form will close to current Y11 and all subsequent year groups?

A: Yes

Q: How can current students find out about alternative sixth form options?

A: The school will continue to invite colleges/sixth forms from across Sefton and surrounding areas, to speak to our Year 11 students to ensure they are fully informed of their Post-16 options. The school has always provided objective information about all Post-16 provision. St. Michael's runs a careers programme every year and has already spoken to Year 11 about their future pathways. We invite sixth forms and colleges to various evening events in our calendar and will plan to offer further careers events in 2026. We ensure all Year 11 students have 1:1 guidance interviews with Careers Connect and will prioritise especially those who may have expressed an interest in St. Michael's Sixth Form.

Q: Some students prefer the small nature of the sixth form. What support will be provided if they move into a larger college?

A: The students in Sefton and the surrounding areas will have a large range of excellent Post-16 options available to them. The school will look to collaborate with smaller Sixth Form provisions in Sefton and the surrounding areas, in addition to larger provisions to ensure every student has an offer which includes excellent pastoral care to support students.

Q: Could the closure of the Sixth Form be detrimental to the quality of education provided by the school?

A: No. We do not believe this will be the case. Whilst it has been a privilege to teach across three Key Stages, concentrating solely on Years 7 to 11 will enable us to sharpen our focus on these crucial years of education. This will allow us to direct even more energy and expertise towards ensuring students achieve the very best outcomes.

Resources that are currently directed towards the Sixth Form can be reinvested into Years 7 to 11. This will bring clear benefits for students, including additional curriculum opportunities, targeted academic support, and access to wider enrichment activities. A dedicated focus on Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 will also allow us to further strengthen transition into secondary school, build firm foundations at Key Stage 3, and maximise progress and achievement at Key Stage 4.

By refining our provision in this way, we believe that students will not only continue to thrive but will also benefit from a more tailored and ambitious experience throughout their time at St. Michael's Church of England Academy.

Q: Does this potential change present any opportunities for the school?

A: There is potential for the school to review how it could expand on the breadth of offer to students at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 when removing sixth form, providing a widening of curriculum and enrichment opportunities to students.

Q: Who decided on this proposal, the school or All Saints Multi-Academy Trust?

A: This proposal was put forward by the leadership of the school/Trust, which is reviewed and supported by Trustees of All Saints Multi-Academy Trust.

Q: What steps will the school take to mitigate the financial impact if this proposal goes ahead?

A: Staffing and curriculum decisions are always reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the school can manage

the budget effectively, and this includes planning around the school, if the Sixth Form closes.

Q: Will there be any job losses/redundancies because of this proposed closure?

A: As outlined above, staffing and curriculum decisions are always reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the school can manage the budget effectively, and this includes planning the staffing of the school (teaching staff and co-professionals). If the Sixth Form closes, we will do everything possible to protect staff from redundancy, but ultimately, we will need to ensure we are not overstaffed.

Q: Who should I contact with any queries regarding the consultation if I cannot find an answer in the FAQs section or want to record my views?

A: You can either:

- Send any thoughts, questions or queries via the linked form: <https://forms.office.com/e/FjBPua447B>
- or
- Send a letter to **St. Michael's Church of England Academy, St. Michael's Road, Crosby, Liverpool, L23 7UL**

Q: What happens after the consultation period closes?

A: Following the consultation, a report summarising the details of the responses to the consultation will be produced for Trustees, who will then meet to review the consultation feedback and will make their decision. The consultation report and subsequent decision will then be published on the school's website and circulated appropriately.

Q: Who will make the final decision about this proposal?

A: All Saints Multi-Academy Trust Board of Directors will decide to either close or retain the Sixth Form provision. If a decision is taken to proceed with the closure, the business case will be submitted to the Department for Education for their approval.

Q: When will the outcome be announced?

A: The consultation period will run for four weeks from 5th January until the 2nd February 2026 (not including school holidays). Directors will then meet to review the consultation feedback and to make their decision. We expect the outcome to be available by the end of February 2026.